

Appl. No.: 10/088,340
Response dated December 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

Remarks

Claims 11-30 are pending in this application.

Claims 11 and 21 have been amended to indicate that the derivative of the non-enzymatic protein is a condensation product of a hydrolysate with a fatty acid having from 6-22 carbon atoms. In addition, the claims 11 and 21 have been amended to indicate that the mixture is formed into a tablet.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered in the application since they place the application in condition for allowance or substantially reduce the issues for appeal. The amendments should be entered to obviate the new grounds of rejection.

The amendments were entered in claim 21 to make it consistent with claim 11 and the term "tablet" was entered for the term "solid".

Applicants' request that the amendments be entered at this time since they place claim 21 in the same condition as claim 11 in relation to the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the new reference, Lang et al. (US 6,051,544), neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

Lang discloses a granular secondary alkanesulfonate with an additive which prevents the hydroscopic secondary alkanesulfonate from agglomerating. The specification teaches a long list of various materials which can be utilized to form detergent formulations containing the treated secondary alkanesulfonate. There are no formulations set forth in the specification except for the granular secondary alkanesulfonate and the various additives which prevent the hydroscopic materials from caking.

In addition, Lang fails to teach or suggest the present disintegrator in the composition.

Applicants further submit that the fatty acid-protein condensation products

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obtained by reaction of fatty acid chlorides with oligopeptides are not the same or similar to the condensation products of fatty acids with the protein hydrolysates. The condensation products between the fatty acid chlorides and the protein provides a product in which the moiety introduced by reaction of the fatty acid chloride with the protein contains a fatty acid chain with a free fatty acid group extending from the protein. In the present invention, the condensation product of the fatty acid with the protein reacts the carboxylic group on the fatty acid with the protein providing a group which does not add a carboxylic acid group to the protein hydrolysate.

Applicants invite the Examiner's attention to the description of the proteins and condensation products which appears at the last part of page 9 extending to page 10, line 28 which discloses that the proteins are not surfactants. Applicants respectfully submit that Lang neither teaches nor suggest the protein condensation products useful in the practice of the present invention.

In addition, Lang neither teaches nor suggests including a disintegrating agent into a compacted material such as a tablet. Although Lang discloses that the coated secondary alkanesulfonate can be utilized in tablets, most of the applications are directed to solid extrudates, such as washing bars, bar soaps or toilet blocks, to the pressed articles (e.g. tablets, or compacts (rolls)). Applicants submit that although tablets are mentioned, there is neither teaching nor suggestion that disintegrating agents be included in the composition. Certainly, the disintegrating agents would not be added to washing bars, bar soaps, toilet blocks or rolls.

Since Lang neither teaches nor suggests utilization of the non-surfactant protein fatty acid condensation product useful in the practice of the present invention and in addition does not include disintegrating agents in the composition, Applicants respectfully submit that a rejection based on Lang is untenable and respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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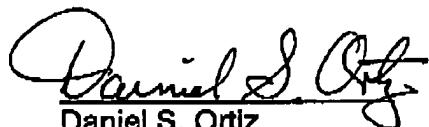
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Applicants will address the double-patenting rejection when there is an indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the claims in their amended form.

Respectfully submitted,



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